

# The Best Place to Live

Rev. Bill Gaethke | Romans 12:1-2  
April 15, 2018 | Spring Cycle: Week 1 of 10

## Personal Connection (25 minutes)

### Icebreaker

If you were able to live anywhere on Earth (or in the universe), where would that be?

### Nice to Meet You!

If you or anyone else is new to the group, please introduce yourselves and share one fun fact about yourself.

### Sharing Christ and Praying for Each Other

How comfortable are you living your faith openly? When you share Christ, has it become easier, more natural?

What prayers are you aware of that the Lord answered this week? Are you still awaiting God's response on anything? How can your LIFE Group pray for you?

## Digging Deeper (30 minutes)

### **This Week's Key Concept:**

**Transformation and the ability to truly worship the Lord result from sacrificing our entire life to God.**

### Read Romans 12:1-2

- Q1. What do you suppose the Apostle Paul is referring to when he pleads with the Roman church to give their bodies to God?
- Q2. According to God's law in the Old Testament, animal sacrifice was required as reparation for an individual's or group's sin. In the New Testament, God willingly allowed his only Son, Jesus Christ, to be the sacrifice. Though different from Christ's sacrificial act, we too are called to sacrifice as his followers. What do these sacrifices have in common at their root?
- Q3. Consider the title of this sermon: *The Best Place to Live*. What comes to your mind in regard to spiritual health?
- Q4. Do you often find yourself off-track in your walk with Christ and conforming to worldly ways? Note: God is always looking to restore your relationship with him.
- Q5. God has a pleasing and perfect plan for his children. No matter your age, we are children of the Lord — not only in that he is our Father, but in our understanding of his ways. As our Father, what kind of transformation does he desire to inspire in us?
- Q6. As children of the Lord, how can we be obedient?
- Q7. Consider this: Have you experienced times in your life when you glimpsed the overwhelming, enormous, unfathomable love Christ has for us?

## Impact Questions

Q1. Giving of ourselves sacrificially to God will look different for each of us based on our talents and spiritual gifts, our family and life experiences, and where we are in our walk with Christ. What does giving yourself sacrificially to the Lord mean to you?

Q2. In what ways do you find the sacrifice easy, and in what ways is sacrificial living a challenge for you? Or, what sacrifices are easy and what sacrifices are hard?

Q3. How have you perceived the Lord's presence as you strive to live sacrificially for him? Has he revealed his will for your life as you have sought to live out this week's scripture text?

Note: We are all on different paths as we are being changed into the likeness of Christ. Sometimes this transformative process appears clear to us, other times it is confusing. Transformation in Christ doesn't always mean all our big issues in life are instantly gone; sometimes it comes in small moments, when forgiveness, grace and obedience in increasing measure, slowly but surely, change us to look more like Christ.

## What now? (15 minutes)

Pray to the Lord to reveal his next steps for you in your walk together. Whether you are at the beginning or at the end of a journey, or stuck in the thick of it, he desires to be with you every step of the way! Allow him to lead you. You are his beloved sons and daughters and there's nothing his grace and love cannot handle.

## Closing Prayer (15 minutes)

Please pray for the ongoing ministries at Northwest and that the impact he makes in our lives is seen not just individually but corporately as well. Please lift up our body of believers, especially those we haven't seen in awhile, and those who are quietly fighting battles we may not know about, that the Lord would encourage them.